

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

RESEARCH LABORATORY



Edison 1879 Lamp

1 River Road
SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

December 21, 1928.

Mr. John W. Howell,
Edison Lamp Works,
Harrison, N.J.

Dear Mr. Howell:

In reply to your letter of the 20th. I presume that the prints from Mr. J. F. Quinlan to which you refer are from Schenectady Works photo-negatives Nos. 458418, 458419 and 458420.

On above assumption, the Edison bristol-board horseshoe filament lamp in photos 458419 and 458420 is a lamp in possession of Mr. W. S. Andrews, which I borrowed from him, and had photographed, while standing by to see that the result was wholly satisfactory, having in mind that I had never seen a previous photo. of any lamps that fully showed up the interior satisfactorily because of fogging reflections on bulb and stem from windows and other things. The glass was more anxious to show up the exterior landscape than to tell about what was inside.

As to photo 458418: - I figured out for Edison the average candle power, as well as I could mathematically - the spherical photometer was not born. In connection with so doing, and for close measurements, I made impressions of the fine carbonized bristol-board blanks by first pressing the steel cutting mold on a red-ink pad and then upon drawing paper, and of the same after carbonizing by blueprinting them in a regular printing frame. Thus I obtained correct dimensional pictures of the filaments, which miraculously have been preserved since March, 1880. I am writing an article for the G. E. Review about all this, which will include test data (very complete) by old Prof. Henry Morton in his report to the Lighthouse Board in 1880. Early that year he gave a few test facts to Scientific American, published in April, but not amounting to much. Very truly yours,

Chas. L. Clark,

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

RESEARCH LABORATORY



Edison 1879 Lamp

1 River Road
SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

Dec. 24, 1928.

Mr. John W. Howell,
Edison Lamp Works,
Harrison, N.J.

Dear Mr. Howell:

In continuation of my letter of
the 21st in reply to yours of the
20th.

Mr. J. F. Quinlan has advised
me to request you to see that no
publication is made by the Lamp
Works from the Schenectady Work
photographs 458418 - 458419 -
458420 of the lamp and filament
details, until after my article
about this lamp appears in the
General Electric Review, which
might, by accidental oversight,
happen.

You naturally see the reasonable
reasons for my request,

Sincerely yours,

Chas. L. Clark.

Edison Horseshoe Lamp

Dec. 31, 1928.

Mr. Henry Schroeder,
Edison Lamp Works,
Harrison, N. J.

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

Undoubtedly, through Mr. Howell, you have seen the beautiful photographs, which I had taken here, of one of the 1879-80 Edison Bristol-board horseshoe-filament lamps — Schenectady Works photo 458418-19-20, — about which I am preparing an article for the *B. E. Review*.

In an article on The Steamship Columbia, by W. J. Jenks, pub. in "Edisonia", 1904, it is stated that the ship, equipped with horseshoe lamps, sailed from New York in May, 1880, "and arrived at Portland, Oregon, two months later, July 26," Mr. Jenks, on page 134, gives references to several early publications as sources of information about the Columbia.

But on page 62 of Hist. of the Incandescent Lamp, by Howell and Schroeder, it is stated that the ship went around the Horn to San Francisco. Have you an idea which statement is correct? Inasmuch as the ship carried a cargo of locomotives, cars and other railroad supplies at the instance of Henry Villard, president of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Co., to which company the ship belonged, it sounds more reasonable to me that the ship went to Portland. Villard was later president of the Northern Pacific Railroad — succeeded by James G. Hill.

Very truly yours,

Chas. L. Clark,

Happy New Year,